

in value to \$1,000 for each year of service that such participant provides to the program. Funds for this benefit shall be included in the budget for the program and reflected in the grant request.

(2)(i) The State shall annually provide to each part-time participant from non-Federal public or private funds a nontransferrable post-service benefit that is equal in value to \$1,000 for each year of service that such participant provides to the program.

(ii) A State may apply for a waiver to reduce the amount of the post-service benefit to an amount that is equal to not less than the average annual tuition and required fees at four year public institutions of higher education within such State. Such waivers will be granted if the Commission determines that such waiver would be equitable due to lack of resources in the State.

(b)(1) The Commission, through the State, shall annually provide to each full-time participant a nontransferrable post-service benefit that is equal in value to \$2,500 for each year of service that such participant provides to the program. Funds for this benefit shall be included in the budget for the program and reflected in the grant request.

(2)(i) The State shall annually provide from non-Federal public or private funds to each full-time participant a nontransferrable post-service benefit that is equal in value to \$2,500 for each year of service that such participant provides to the program.

(ii) A State may apply for a waiver to reduce the amount of the post-service benefit to an amount that is equal to not less than the average annual tuition, required fees, and room and board costs at four year public institutions of higher education within such State. Such waiver will be granted if the Commission determines that such waiver would be equitable due to a lack of resources in the State.

(c) Nothing in this part shall be construed to prevent a State from using funds made available from non-Federal sources to increase the amount of post-service benefits to an amount in excess of that described in this part.

(d) A special senior service participant shall be ineligible to receive post-service benefits under this part.

(e) The Commission will increase the value of post-service benefits provided under this part in each fiscal year based on the increase in the costs associated with attending a four year institution of higher education during that fiscal year. The Commission will determine such increases in costs based on information made available by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the National Center for Education Statistics.

§ 2504.11 Uses of post-service benefits.

(a) A post-service benefit for a part-time participant provided under § 2504.10(a) of this part shall only be used for:

(1) Payment of a student loan from Federal or non-Federal sources;

(2) Down-payment or closing costs associated with purchasing a first home; or

(3) Tuition at an institution of higher education on a fulltime basis, or to pay the expenses incurred in the full-time participation in an apprenticeship program approved by the appropriate State agency.

(b) A post-service benefit for a full-time participant provided under § 2504.10(b) of this part shall only be used for:

(1) Payment of a student loan from Federal or non-Federal sources; or

(2) Tuition, room and board, books and fees, and other costs associated with attendance (pursuant to section 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 108711)) at an institution of higher education on a full-time basis, or to pay the expenses incurred in the full-time participation in an apprenticeship program approved by the appropriate State agency.

§ 2504.12 Living allowance.

(a)(1) Each participant in a full-time program that receives assistance under this part shall receive a living allowance of not more than 100 percent of the poverty line for a family of two. Program agencies have the flexibility to establish the amount of living allowance in accordance with this part.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (a)(1) of this section, a program agency may